

Happy Valentine's Day

It's nearly February 14th, the time to send your lover things like flowers, heart-shaped sweets, chocolates, cards or another present. Of course, you can also send something as a secret admirer, or simply to a friend. Valentine's Day promotions are everywhere. Shops are filled with gifts to choose from.



History of Valentine's Day

The story dates back to the time of Roman Emperor Claudius II in the third century AD. The day gets its name from a saint in Rome called Valentine. The emperor didn't allow soldiers to get married. Yet, as a man of the Church, Valentine didn't agree with the emperor and went against the law, secretly marrying couples.

Unfortunately, the emperor found out and had Valentine thrown into prison and sentenced to death. While he was in jail, he fell in love with the blind daughter of his jailer. Before he was killed on February 14, 269 AD, he sent her a letter telling her he loved her and signed it 'Your Valentine'.

How Valentine's Day grew

In England in the 1700's, Valentine's Day was similar to how we celebrate it today. Lovers began to show their love with gifts of flowers, sweets and cards, known as 'valentines'. In the 1800's two commercial ideas became successful. First, Mrs Howland made cards that people could buy. Today, the most cards are sold at Christmas, followed by Valentine's Day. Second, Mr Cadbury designed the chocolate heart-shaped box for your 'sweetheart'. Every year on Valentine's Day, at least 36 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolates are sold.

Tips for Valentine's Day

Not only can you give your valentine chocolates or a card. You can also choose from flowers, balloons, teddy bears, sweets, or jewellery. Roses are the most popular flowers to give to your valentine. A red rose is romantic, and a yellow rose is for friendship, while a pink rose means thank you. At school, if you secretly love or admire someone, you can give them a red rose, which means 'I love you'. If you want, you can send it anonymously so that the person who gets it doesn't know who it's from. Of course, you can make your own special valentine. Why not bake some heart-shaped cupcakes, or put together a special music playlist? But, you could also stay old-fashioned and just write your own *Roses are red, violets are blue* poem.

Source: www.abcteach.com; www.softschool.com

Words to help you

the secret admirer = someone who loves someone else in secret so that the other one doesn't know
to be sentenced to death = a punishment fixed by law saying you have to die
AD = Anno Domini = years after Christ